REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. Rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e):

Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hirota et al. (US 7,072,506).

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Response:

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of the original claims 2 and 3. No new matter is added.

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Claim 3 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As a result, claim 1 should now be in allowable form. Reconsideration of claim 1 is respectfully requested.

15 2. Rejection of claims 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

Claims 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirota et al. (US 7,072,506).

Response:

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Claims 9 and 10 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed. Reconsideration of claims 9 and 10 is therefore respectfully requested.

3. Rejection of claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a):

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Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirota et al. (US 7,072,506) in view of Luther et al. (US 6,005,680).

Response:

Claim 2 has been cancelled, and is no longer in need of consideration.

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4. Introduction to new claims 11-15:

New claim 11 is drafted to include the limitations of original claims 1 and 4. Claim 4 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. As a result, new claim 11 should now be in allowable form.

Claims 12-15 are duplicates of original claims 5-8, respectively, and no new matter is added through any of the new claims. Consideration of claims 11-15 is respectfully requested.

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In view of the claim amendments, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Sincerely yours,

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Wentonton			
UUUMM Jau	Date:	07/20/2007	

Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526

P.O. BOX 506, Merrifield, VA 22116, U.S.A.

Voice Mail: 302-729-1562

Facsimile: 806-498-6673 20

e-mail: winstonhsu@naipo.com

Note: Please leave a message in my voice mail if you need to talk to me. (The time in D.C. is 12 hours behind the Taiwan time, i.e. 9 AM in D.C. = 9 PM in Taiwan.)

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